

UNIT ELEVEN

Piacere and similar verbs

1 **Piacere** corresponds to ‘to like’, but it is used in a different way from its English counterpart. In Italian, the subject of the verb/sentence is the thing or person one likes; the person who likes something is denoted by an indirect object pronoun (see Unit 10):

Mi piace lo sport.	I like sport. [lit. sport is pleasing to me]
Ti piace ballare?	Do you like dancing? [lit. is dancing pleasing to you?]
Mi piacciono i gatti.	I like cats. [lit. cats are pleasing to me]

2 **Piacere** is an irregular verb mostly used in the third person singular (**piace**) and plural (**piacciono**). As can be seen in the examples, **piace** is used if the thing that one likes is a singular noun or pronoun, or the infinitive of a verb; **piacciono** is used if the things that one likes are a plural noun or pronoun:

Singular noun or pronoun

mi (to me)	piace	la mia città.	I like my home town.
ti (to you)	piace	questo/questa.	You like this (one).
gli/le (to him/her)	piace	il calcio.	He/she likes football.
ci (to us)	piace	la musica rock.	We like rock music.
vi (to you)	piace	il tennis.	You like tennis.
gli (to them)	piace	quello/quella.	They like that one.

Verb

mi (to me)	piace	leggere.	I like to read/reading.
ti (to you)	piace	andare in bici.	You like to cycle/cycling.
gli/le (to him/her)	piace	sciare.	He/she likes to ski/skiing.
ci (to us)	piace	guardare la tv.	We like to watch/watching TV.
vi (to you)	piace	dormire.	You like to sleep/sleeping.
gli (to them)	piace	ballare.	They like to dance/dancing.